

Message Text

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AFDROUGHT

SUBJ: CROP PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

REF : A. ROME 2992

B. ROME 2668

1. FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM OSRO (376) SIGNED DABELL.
2. FURTHER TO CABLED SUMMARY REPORT DATED 21 FEBRUARY ON CROP PROTECTION MEETING DAKAR (OSRO CABLE 302) AND SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH FAO AND REGIONAL EXPERTS OSRO NOW REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. MILK WINTER FAVORING PESTS HAS ADDED TO EXPERTS APPREHENSIONS OF POTENTIALLY SERIOUS DANGER OF CROP INFESTATION THIS SEASON. PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR HALF MILLION HECTARES OF HIGHER YIELDING FOOD PRODUCING AREAS IS RECOMMENDED AS MINIMUM TARGET FOR EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE CROP PROTECTION COULD SAVE MANY THOUSAND OF TONS OF FOOD AND HELP TO HOLD PESTS IN CHECK UNTIL LONGER TERM ACTION ORGANIZED.

B. OSRO RECOMMENDS POLICY OF CONCENTRATING THIS YEAR'S ASSISTANCE ON THOSE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ABILITY TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED. THIS IMPLIES GIVING PRIORITY TO THE NEEDS OF THE REGIONAL BODIES OCLALAV AND

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OICMA AND LIMITING MOST NATIONAL SERVICES TO UNSOPHISTICATED

SUPPLIES MAINLY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO FARMERS.

C. THE PRESENT SIX WEEK FAO TRAINING COURSE ON PLANT PROTECTION IN DAKAR ENDING MARCH 21 SHOULD PRODUCE SOME TWENTY MEN RETURNING TO THE SAHEL COUNTRIES ABLE TO IMPART TRAINING AND GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE FIELD. OSRO IS MAKING FUNDS AND SUPERVISION AVAILABLE TO THE MEN'S NATIONAL SERVICES (ABOUT DOLLARS 5000 PER MAN) TO ENSURE SUCH MEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AND MEANS TO APPLY THEIR TRAINING. OSRO WILL LATER AUGMENT SUPERVISORY AND EXPERT ADVICE HOPEFULLY TO ASSIST EACH COUNTRY TO IMPLEMENT UTILIZATION PLANS.

D. BY STRICT APPLICATION OF POLICY OUTLINED IN B. ABOVE, OSRO ESTIMATES THAT DOLLARS 4.5 MILLION WOULD BE THE MINIMUM EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO MAKE SOME IMPACT ON PROBLEM AT CURRENT INSECTICIDES AND OTHER PRICES. ADDITIONAL FUNDS IF MADE AVAILABLE COULD BE USED TO ALLOW SOME STOCKS TO BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF PERFORMANCE AND THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM.

3. DOLLARS 415 MILLION WOULD ALLOW UP TO DOLLARS 2 MILLION TO REINFORCE OCLALAV AND OICMA MAINLY FOR AERIAL TREATMENT OF UP TO 250,000 HECTARES AS RECOMMENDED AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WITH BALANCE DEVOTED LARGELY FOR THE SUPPLY OF HCH 25 PERCENT POWEDER AND APPROPRIATE DUSTING EQUIPMENT TO NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION SERVICES AND FARMERS. OSRO TO COMMIT DOLLARS 3 MILLION FROM PAST AND PRESENTLY PROMISED CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER MAJOR DONORS SUCH AS CANADA, UK AND THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. CAN USAID PLEDGE AT LEAST THE BALANCE EITHER IN CASH OR IN FORM OF INSECTICIDES?

F. AN URGENT DECISION IS REQUIRED BECAUSE OSRO MUST INFORM THE PLANT PROTECTION SERVICES ON THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PLEDGED FOR THE CAMPAIGN IN TIME FOR THEM TO MEET THEIR TOTAL NEEDS. THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND FOLLOW UP AT DAKAR UNDOUBTEDLY RAISED HOPES WHICH HAVE POSSIBLY DELAYED PROCUREMENT AND OTHER ACTIONS THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE URGENTLY IF THEY ARE TO PREPOSITION SUPPLIES BY END MAY. VOLPE

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